Patent

File No. A-TOOTHD.PAT

TOOTH BRUSH AND TOOTHPASTE TUBE HOLDER

Filing History

This application continues from provisional application number 60/506,086 filed September 25, 2003 and is based at least in part on and continues from disclosure document number 535980 filed on August 4, 2003.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention:

The present invention relates generally to the field of personal hygiene. More specifically the present invention relates to a combination tooth brush and toothpaste tube holder including a holder body with a holder body outer surface comprising an outer surface top portion, an outer surface side portion and an outer surface bottom portion, and having at least one toothbrush receiving port opening through the holder body outer surface into the holder body and sized in diameter to receive a correspondingly sized toothbrush and extending to a sufficient depth to retain the toothbrush, and having at least one toothpaste tube receiving port opening through the holder body outer surface into the holder body and sized in diameter to receive a correspondingly sized toothpaste tube and extending to a sufficient depth to retain the toothpaste

tube. The toothbrush receiving port and the toothpaste tube receiving port preferably open through the outer surface top portion downwardly into the holder body to retain a toothbrush and a toothpaste tube, respectively, in an upright position. It is preferred that four toothbrush receiving ports be provided along the periphery of the surface top portion so that the holder can retain toothbrushes of several persons in a household. The holder body preferably is an upright cylinder and has a horizontal cross-section which is square, triangular, round, or of any other desired shape, and preferably is hollow.

2. Description of the Prior Art:

There have long been bathroom fixtures in the form of drinking glass supporting panels protruding horizontally from a bathroom wall beside a sink and having toothbrush passing holes for retaining toothbrushes between uses. The lower ends of toothbrush handles are inserted into respective toothbrush holes until the bristles abut the supporting panel upper surface, so that the brush hangs from the panel and drips dry. A problem with these conventional toothbrush holders has been that they make no provision for retaining a toothpaste tube, which virtually everyone would want to keep together with a toothbrush. Another problem has been that the drinking glass supporting panels, being attached to a bathroom wall, are not portable and readily relocatable.

It is thus an object of the present invention to provide a toothbrush and toothpaste tube holder which retains at least one and preferably multiple toothbrushes and at the same time retains a tube of toothpaste.

It is another object of the present invention to provide such a holder which is portable and easily lifted and transported by hand from one bathroom to the next and is easily carried in luggage such as on a vacation.

It is finally an object of the present invention to provide such a holder which is simple in design and inexpensive to manufacture.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention accomplishes the above-stated objectives, as well as others, as may be determined by a fair reading and interpretation of the entire specification.

A combination tooth brush and toothpaste tube holder, including a holder body having a holder body outer surface made up of an outer body surface top portion, an outer surface side portion and an outer body surface bottom portion; at least one toothbrush receiving port opening through the holder body outer surface into the holder body and sized in diameter to receive a correspondingly sized toothbrush and extending to a sufficient depth to retain the toothbrush; and at least one toothpaste tube receiving port opening through the holder body outer surface into the holder body and sized in diameter to receive a correspondingly sized toothpaste tube and extending to a sufficient depth to retain the toothpaste tube.

The toothbrush receiving port preferably opens through the outer surface top portion downwardly into the holder body to retain a toothbrush in an upright position, and the toothpaste tube receiving port opens through the outer surface top portion downwardly into the holder body to retain a toothpaste tube in an upright position. The holder preferably includes at least four toothbrush receiving ports. The tooth brush receiving ports optionally have substantially equal diameters. The tooth brush receiving ports optionally have diameters of varying sizes to

receive tooth brushes of correspondingly varying sizes.

The holder body preferably is substantially cylindrical with an upright cylinder axis and has a horizontal cross-section which is one of: square, triangular and round. The holder body preferably is hollow, having a body top wall defining the outer surface top portion, a body side wall defining the outer surface side portion and a body bottom wall defining the outer surface bottom portion. The holder body preferably includes a drain port in the body bottom wall. The holder body alternatively is a solid block, and the toothbrush receiving ports and the toothpaste tube receiving port open into individual upright passageways which extend downwardly and entirely through the holder body.

The holder preferably additionally includes at least one elevation projection extending downwardly from the holder body for elevating the holder body. The elevation projection preferably includes a continuous loop peripheral elevation projection for retaining underneath the holder body any water draining from the holder body through the drain port. The elevation projection preferably includes a downwardly projecting bottom rim. The holder body preferably is formed of plastic.

An apparatus is further provided for dental hygiene, including a tooth brush; a toothpaste tube; and tooth brush and toothpaste tube holder, including a holder body having a holder body outer surface made up of an outer body surface top portion, an outer surface side portion and an outer body surface bottom portion; at least one toothbrush receiving port opening through the holder body

outer surface into the holder body and sized in diameter to receive a correspondingly sized toothbrush and extending to a sufficient depth to retain the toothbrush; and at least one toothpaste tube receiving port opening through the holder body outer surface into the holder body and sized in diameter to receive a correspondingly sized toothpaste tube and extending to a sufficient depth to retain the toothpaste tube.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Various other objects, advantages, and features of the invention will become apparent to those skilled in the art from the following discussion taken in conjunction with the following drawings, in which:

FIGURE 1 is a perspective view of the preferred tooth brush and toothpaste tube holder having a square cross-section. In this particular example, two diagonally opposing corners are of larger diameter for larger brushes and the remaining two opposing corners are of smaller diameter for smaller brushes.

FIGURE 2 is a perspective view of the holder of FIGURE 1 with three toothbrushes and a toothpaste tube in their respective ports.

FIGURE 3 is a perspective view of the preferred tooth brush and toothpaste tube holder having a triangular cross-section. In this particular example, the toothbrush receiving ports are arrayed in a straight line and the two toothbrush receiving ports at the far ends of the line of ports are of larger diameters for larger brushes and the two middle ports are of smaller diameter.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

As required, detailed embodiments of the present invention are disclosed herein; however, it is to be understood that the disclosed embodiments are merely exemplary of the invention which may be embodied in various forms. Therefore, specific structural and functional details disclosed herein are not to be interpreted as limiting, but merely as a basis for the claims and as a representative basis for teaching one skilled in the art to variously employ the present invention in virtually any appropriately detailed structure.

Reference is now made to the drawings, wherein like characteristics and features of the present invention shown in the various FIGURES are designated by the same reference numerals.

First Preferred Embodiment

Referring to FIGURES 1-3, a combination tooth brush and toothpaste tube holder 10 is disclosed. Holder 10 includes a holder body 12 with a holder body outer surface 20 made up of an outer body surface top portion 22, an outer surface side portion 24 and a body surface bottom portion 26, and has at least one toothbrush receiving port 32 opening through the holder body outer surface into the holder body 12 and sized in diameter to receive a correspondingly sized toothbrush TB and extending to a sufficient depth to retain the toothbrush TB, and having at least one toothpaste tube receiving port 42 opening through the holder body outer surface 20 into the holder body 12 and sized in diamet r to

receive a correspondingly sized toothpaste tube TP and extending to a sufficient depth to retain the toothpaste tube TP.

The toothbrush receiving port 32 and the toothpaste tube receiving port 42 preferably open through the outer surface top portion 22 downwardly into the holder body 12 to retain a toothbrush TB and a toothpaste tube TP, respectively, in an upright position. It is preferred that four toothbrush receiving ports 32, 34, 36 and 38 be provided so that the holder 10 can retain toothbrushes TB of several persons in a household. Toothbrush receiving ports 32, 34, 36 and 38 may all have the same diameter or may have differing diameters, such as progressively increasing diameters to receive toothbrushes TB of different sizes. The holder body 12 preferably is generally cylindrical with an upright cylinder axis and has a horizontal cross-section which is square, triangular, round, or of any other desired shape.

The holder body 12 preferably is hollow, having a body top wall 52 defining the outer surface top portion 22, a body side wall 54 defining the outer surface side portion 24 and a body bottom wall 56 defining the outer surface bottom portion 26. Where the holder body 12 is hollow, a drain port 44 preferably is provided in the body bottom wall 54. Where the holder body 12 is a solid block, the toothbrush receiving ports 32-38 and toothpaste tube receiving port 42 preferably open into individual upright passageways (not shown) which extend downwardly entirely through the holder body 12 and open through passageway drain ports (not shown) in the outer surface bottom portion 26. In either instance,

multiple discrete elevation projections 64 in the form of foot structures, or a single, continuous loop peripheral elevation projection 74 illustrated in the FIGURES in broken lines, optionally are provided along the outer surface bottom portion 26 periphery so that water can drain through the drain openings such as draining port 44. A single peripheral elevation projection 74 in the form of a downwardly projecting bottom rim is preferred, because it elevates the bottom wall 56 from a holder 10 support surface to permit draining of water through drain port 44 and yet contains the water beneath the holder body 12. It is contemplated that the holder body outer surface 20 be provided in virtually any desired color, shape and texture.

For the square holder 10, some example dimensions are a holder height of four and one half inches, a holder side length of three and three quarter inches, larger toothbrush receiving port diameters of one and three quarter inches and smaller toothbrush receiving port diameters of three quarter inches, and a toothpaste tube receiving port long axis of two and one quarter inches and a short axis of one and three eights inches and a drain port diameter of three quarter inches. These dimensions once again are purely exemplary and should not be viewed as limiting and holders 10 of many other dimensions are contemplated. For this example, the toothbrush receiving ports are wider than the bristle end of the toothbrush TB and toothbrushes TB are supported by their handle ends resting on body bottom wall 54, where holder 10 is hollow and by resting on the holder support surface wher holder 10 is solid.

While the invention has been described, disclosed, illustrated and shown in various terms or certain embodiments or modifications which it has assumed in practice, the scope of the invention is not intended to be, nor should it be deemed to be, limited thereby and such other modifications or embodiments as may be suggested by the teachings herein are particularly reserved especially as they fall within the breadth and scope of the claims here appended.